



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Education Panel Overwhelmingly Passes H.R. 1 by 41-7 Vote

The Education & the Workforce Committee took a giant step closer to making the most significant change in federal education policy since 1965 yesterday, passing the *No Child Left Behind Act* by an **overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 41-7**. President Bush issued the following statement yesterday thanking the committee for staying true to his reform blueprint and passing his bill:

"I commend members of the House Education and Workforce Committee for taking the first step toward reforming America's education system and making sure no child is left behind. This legislation includes monumental reforms that promote real accountability, annual testing and funding flexibility. Parents need to know if their children are making progress, and this legislation meets that priority. I am also pleased that this bill gives unprecedented freedom and flexibility to states and local school districts to determine the best way to spend their federal education dollars."

"I urge members of Congress to continue building upon our efforts to expand parental options. I will support amendments on the House floor that increase parental options and involvement."

In addition, Education & the Workforce Chairman John Boehner vowed that Republicans would move aggressively on the House floor to pass an amendment to provide private school choice to parents of children trapped in failing schools.

Message of the Day

President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education plan represents a dramatic break from the past.

- *H.R. 1 gives states and local school districts unprecedented flexibility while holding them accountable for closing the achievement gap.*
- *The bill empowers parents with information about the progress their children are making, the quality of the schools they're attending, and the qualifications of the teachers who are teaching them.*
- *It gives parents an array of new options and provides a safety valve for disadvantaged children trapped in failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 eliminates or consolidates nearly half of the federal K-12 education bureaucracy in one swift stroke.
- The measure dramatically enhances flexibility for local school districts, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of their federal education dollars **without first having to obtain permission from anyone -- including the U.S. Department of Education or the state.**
- The bill allows parents to remove their child from a low-performing school and send them to a different public school immediately after their school has been identified as failing.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"H.R. 1 reflects each of the four pillars of President Bush's education reform plan -- accountability, flexibility and local control, research-based reform, and expanded parental options." **Education Secretary Rod Paige, May 9, 2001**